

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8385
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA JA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 2740

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, JA
SUBJ: JDA DIRGEN SAKATA ANNOUNCES PLAN TO REVISE DEFENSE
POLICY

REF: TOKYO 2604

1. JDA DIRECTOR GENERAL SAKATA FEBRUARY 2 UNVEILED NEW BASIC PLAN TO REVISE JAPAN'S DEFENSE POLICY. PLAN CALLS FOR INAUGURATING NEW ADVISORY BODY BY MID-MARCH OF APPROXIMATELY TEN EXPERTS IN FIELDS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, LAW, SECURITY AND OTHER MATTERS TO GIVE NEW ORIENTATION TO DEFENSE POLICY WHEN 4TH DEFENSE BUILDUP PLAN CONCLUDES AT END OF JFY76. IN ADDITION TO THIS JDA ADVISORY BODY, SAKATA WISHES TO UPGRADE THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL CHAIRED BY PM MIKI TO MAKE IT INTO A SUBSTANTIAL DECISION-MAKING BODY AND ALSO TO ESTABLISH SEPARATE DIET STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENSE MATTERS.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS, SAKATA STATED HIS PLAN ALSO AIMED AT GENERATING DEFENSE POLICY ENDORSED BY POPULAR CONSENSUS AND AT INSURING SUPREMACY OF CIVILIAN CONTROL BY CONFIRMING AUTHORITY OF DIET IN DEFENSE MATTERS.

3. COMMENT: SAKATA NO DOUBT SINCERE IN DESIRE TO GENERATE
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PUBLIC INTEREST IN AND CONSENSUS ON JAPANESE DEFENSE

POLICY (REFTEL). UNLESS POLITICAL CLIMATE CHANGES SIGNIFICANTLY, HOWEVER, EMBASSY FORESEES LITTLE CHANCE THAT NEW BODY WILL BE EFFECTIVE VEHICLE FOR REDIRECTING DEFENSE POLICY, ALTHOUGH IT MAY HAVE SOME ROLE IN BUILDING SUPPORT FOR POST FOURTH DEFENSE BUILDUP PLANNING. ALREADY PRESS COMMENTARY (ASAHI FEBRUARY 3) HAS TAKEN OPPORTUNITY TO SNEER AT SAKATA PLAN AS QTE FAIRY'S CLOAK UNQTE MORE LIKELY TO COVER UP SECURITYMATTERS THAN TO ILLUMINATE THEM. END COMMENT.

HODGSON

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